

LATE ISSUANCE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Because of my traveling, this issue of the Newsletter is about three weeks later than I like it to be. The first part of September I was involved in getting ready for and attending the Triennial Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, Massachusetts. At the Congress, I was elected Treasurer General for another three-year term.

On the way home from Plymouth, Veda and I had an enjoyable visit with Lois B. Almy and Dorothy and Philip Almy in Little Compton, Rhode Island. While there, we looked into arrangements for a 1982 Almy Family Reunion. Tentative plans are presented elsewhere in this Newsletter. On returning home from Rhode Island, I had only a few days to unpack suitcases, pay bills, and repack before we started traveling again. This time to attend a family meeting of one of my ancestral lines held this year in Maine. This was followed immediately by a church associated conference in New York state. So I have had a very busy month.

BOB ALMY -- PART OF "HAM" RADIO ORIGIN

The following information, sent to me by Elizabeth Almy Nerad (1233-3252-312) was contained in a flyer distributed by the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society and quoted in both the Elyria Chronicle Telegram and the Medina County Gazette.

"Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called HAM's? Well, it goes like this -- the word 'ham' was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first, they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name. Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

"In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity.

"In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Sen. David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The senator was so impressed he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. He was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station was built. He almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which were set up in the bill.

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"The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country trying to be saved from menace and greed of the big commercial stations which didn't want them around. Finally, the bill got to the floor of Congress, and every speaker talked about the poor little station 'HAM.' That is how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with amateurs. From that day to this and probably to the end of time, in radio, an amateur is a HAM. And now you know."

Does anyone know who Bob Almy, above, was? I would like to know his identity and have confirmation of the above story.

1982 ALMY FAMILY REUNION

The current tentative plans are to have an Almy Family Reunion on Friday and Saturday, August 13 and 14, 1982, in the Tiverton / Little Compton / Portsmouth area of Rhode Island. August was selected this time so that families with school age children would be able to attend. Portsmouth is where No. 1 William Almy ultimately settled and descendants of his sons Christopher (No. 12) and Job (No. 14) lived and are still living in the Portsmouth / Tiverton / Little Compton area.

Friday could be spent in informal discussions and looking at family memorabilia items with a dinner Friday evening with a speaker on local history and the part Almy's have played in the settlement and development of the area. Also, specific Saturday plans would be explained at the Friday evening activity. On Saturday we could go on a trip or trips to local farms, cemeteries, and towns having Almy significance. We could go by bus if economically feasible or by our private automobiles. If the latter, we would map out various itineraries to suit the desires of different Almy family members.

We would have our dinners at Eileen Darling's Restaurant, a very good and well known establishment in Seekonk, Massachusetts (listed under Providence, R.I. in the AAA Tour Book). They also have a motel there and there are three other adjoining motels, if needed, all of which are reasonable in price. There is also a more luxurious Ramada Inn a block away. Rates for 1982 had not been established so I cannot pass that information on yet. This Seekonk area is the closest we can reasonably get to the Tiverton / Little Compton / Portsmouth area. Seekonk is on I 395, 5 miles East of Providence and around 15 miles from Tiverton. Newport at that time of year is crowded, very high priced, and we would have a problem finding a good meeting place. At Eileen Darling's we will have a meeting room during the day and our own private dining room for the two evenings.

Please write and let me know if you plan to attend so that I can make the arrangements for a meeting room and an adequate sized dining room. Also, let me know if you plan to stay with the group at the motel as the number of motel rooms for the group will have a bearing on the cost of meeting room and dining room. This cost will in turn affect the registration fee. I want the reunion to be on a break even basis, cost-wise.

Also, please let me have your comments on the above tentative plans and any suggestions you may have concerning reunion activities.

NECROLOGY: I have been notified by various means that the Almy Family has lost the following members in recent months.

MADELEINE ALMY MATHER (1235-4131-111)

Constance M. Price (Mrs. John L. Price, Jr.) wrote me in September that her mother, Madeleine Almy Mather, had just died in Newton, Massachusetts, at the age of 85. Madeleine was born 21 July 1896 in Providence, Rhode Island, the daughter of Arthur Comstock and Frances D. (Carpenter) Almy. Madeleine married Philip R. Mather and had four daughters: Constance, Anne, Madeleine, and Phyllis.

HORACE MANCHESTER ALMY, III (1407-1C73-3)

Horace Manchester Almy, III of Greenwood, Nebraska, died on 3 September 1981, at the age of 80. Horace was born 20 April 1901, the son of Horace Manchester and Irene (Grebe) Almy and the grandson of Horace Manchester and Abbie Colburn (Grinnell) Almy. Horace is survived by his wife, the former Margaret Hammer; a son, Horace Marven Almy; a daughter, Reesa Marie Almy Eisler; and two grandchildren.

KENNETH B. ALMY (1408-3833-112)

Kenneth Bemis Almy, of Brunswick, Maine, died on 10 August 1981 at the age of 59. For 30 years, he was employed by the Brunswick Naval Air Station in its public works department. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

Kenneth was born in Boston, Massachusetts, 15 November 1921. He went to Maine as a child and attended grade schools in Bowdoin and graduated from Bowdoinham High School. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Rose; his stepmother, Marie Rose; five sons: Kenneth B., Robert G., Wayne R., Dana A., and Mark A; a daughter, Janice Marie Almy Hill; two brothers: Arthur Paul, and Donald; and seven grandchildren.

I know the above three will be greatly missed by their family and friends.

BEWARE OF ANCESTRAL BOOKS

Earlier this year, Floyd Almy (1233-4668-15) of Everson, Washington, sent me a card he had received from a Beatrice Bayley advertising "The Almy Family Heritage Book." The card says "It is a guide to the discovery and documentation of your personal and family heritage." The Postal Service has gotten after this individual at least once before for misleading or false advertising. Read very carefully any advertisement you receive concerning family heritage or genealogy. See my comments on page 1 of issue No. 18 (April 1979) concerning a similar book.

Number 1233-864 FREDERICK ALMY

Frederick Almy, third son of Thomas and Sarah (Gifford) Almy, was born in Dartmouth, Massachusetts on 30 April 1811, where he lived until 1837, when he settled in business in Boston, Massachusetts and lived there or in the vicinity till the time of his death on 6 August 1875.

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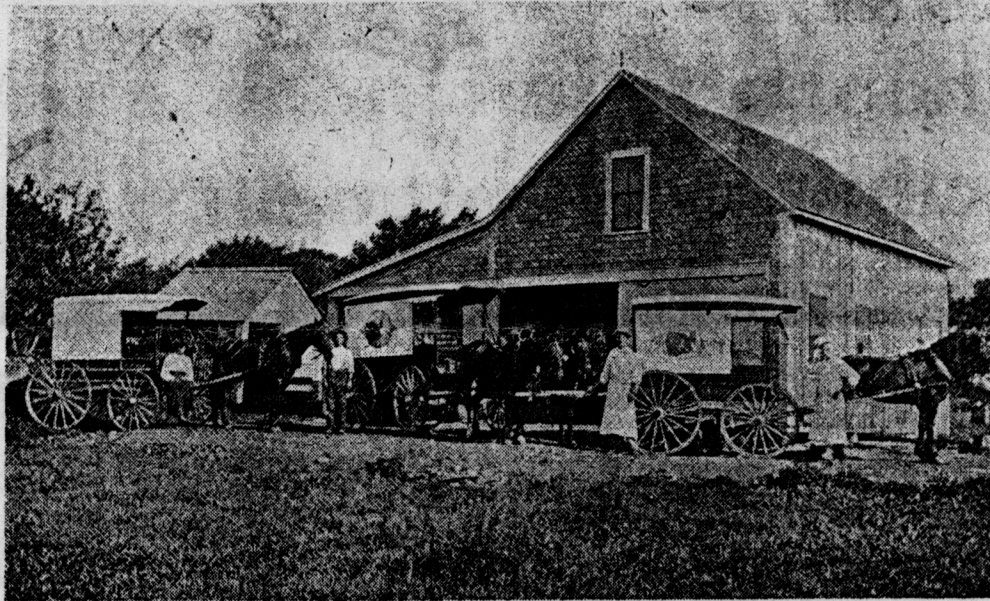
In 1828 he commenced business at Russell's Mills, Dartmouth, Massachusetts, keeping a small country store, and continued there till 1837, the time of his removal to Boston. He then, with his elder brother, William Almy, Joseph W. Patterson, and Jarvis Slade, formed the firm of Almy, Patterson & Co. Mr. Slade retired in 1846, and Mr. Patterson in 1865, when the firm became Almy, Hobart & Co.; this firm lasted two years, and was succeeded by Almy & Co. 1 January 1868, Frederick Almy being the senior, Henry Almy (William Almy's son), Francis N. Foster, and George P. Slade (Jarvis Slade's son), being associated with him. This firm was dissolved in December 1872 on account of Frederick Almy's ill-health, and so ended the succession of firms which had been as land-marks in the dry-goods business for so many years.

Frederick married in 1847, Susan Henrietta Niles, daughter of Thomas Niles of Boston. Their children were: Elizabeth B. Almy; Frederick Almy, born 14 June 1849; Edward P. Almy; and Henry Niles Almy, born in 1857.

Frederick Almy's line is Thomas⁶, Christopher⁵, Job⁴, William³, Christopher², William¹.

GIDEON ALMY (1408-3832-4) MEAT MARKET

Warren O. Almy (1408-3832-41) sent the following newspaper picture of his father's meat market in Portsmouth. The picture was in the Sakonnet Times of 13 September 1979. Warren said his father sent the wagons to Boston to get painted and the picture on the side was a bull's head in living color.



GIDEON ALMY Meat Market, located on Glen Road in Portsmouth in the early 1900's. Delivery carriages, drivers and butchers pose for this photo sometime between 1910 and 1920. A card advertising the firm's offerings listed a telephone number of 32-2. Photo from the collection of James E Garman of Portsmouth.

ALMY IN DENMARK

In Newsletter No. 25 (January 1981), I told you about Almys I found in the Kobenhavn telephone book. I have corresponded through the help of a translator (a friend of Marjorie Wade, No. 1233-4668-121) in the letter sent and the reply received. I think you all will be interested in the reply, which was roughly:

"My name is Kjeld Almy, I am son of Edith Almy. I can't write English, but I understand from your letter to my mother that you can get the letter translated to English. I thank you for your letter, and I will try to tell you as much as I know about the name Almy in Denmark.

"I will start with myself. My father was born in Denmark d. 19/12 - 1890, his name was Christian Wilhelm Almy. He had been married before he met my mother. She doesn't know much about that marriage, but there was a few children, some of which I by chance met once. My father died in 1944, he was quite old, so his children from the first marriage are old enough to be my parents. I can't remember my father, as I was born in 1936. My mother doesn't know much about my grandfather; he was dead when my mother married my father, but she believes he came from France. His name was Emil Ferdinand Almy, his wife was Danish and her name was Maren Kersline; her maiden name I don't know, but they had 5 children who all are deceased. Christian, Herman, Aksel, 3 boys and 2 girls Natalie and Birgithe. Christian, who was my father, was the only one that had any children, but as I mentioned before, he was married twice and how many children there were from that marriage I don't know. But my parents had two children, a boy and a girl. The boy is me, my sister is married and is no Almy anymore. I am married and have 2 boys, 1 boy 24, and a boy 17 years old. So of my family, I was the only one to carry the name on.

"I thank you on behalf of my family for your letter that you sent to my mother, Edith Almy. I find your letter very interesting for us, and would like very much to hear from you again, and if you have any more questions, I will be very happy to answer you, but I am sorry I can only write in Danish."

Marjorie Wade and I were shocked that he considered his father quite old when he died at age 54. I hope one of the dates was in error. I will keep you posted on further correspondence.

1774 LOTTERY FOR GIDEON ALMY (1239-1)

Gideon W. Almy, III (1408-3832-422) sent me the following article from the Newport Daily News about another Gideon Almy, No. 1239-1. The article tells about the General Assembly in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1774.

"At the June session Gideon Almy of Tiverton 'prayed this Assembly to grant him a lottery.' Almy, classified as a trader, stated that in the autumn of 1773 'he laid out every shilling he was worth in fitting out two-third parts of the sloop Sally, on a whaling voyage; that the said sloop, meeting with success, had got on board one hundred and twenty barrels of oil, by the latter end of January last; and that the said sloop being obliged, in a gale of wind, to come to and anchor under Hispaniola, was seized by a French frigate, carried into Port-au-Prince, and there, with her whole cargo, condemned as a lawful prize; by which misfortune, he hath totally lost upwards of \$2,000, being the whole what he was worth, and had scraped together, by his unwearied diligence and industry, and is deprived of the means of putting himself into any way of business, to support a wife and seven children.'

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"The lottery to benefit Almy was originally set at \$1,200. Four men were appointed as directors of the lottery. Three were from Tiverton and one was from Newport. According to public notice of the time 576 prizes were established. The top prize was one of \$100 and the others scaled down to 540 winners who would collect \$2 each. Two thousand tickets were to be printed of which 1,424 were blanks. The total value was \$2,000 for the tickets which would be sold for \$1 each.

"The Newport Mercury of August 22 advertised, 'This lottery is not only well calculated for the advantage of adventurers, but is for a very benevolent purpose, that of making up, in part, the loss of a very honest, industrious person, with a large family, which he sustained for some time past, by having a whaling vessel taken by the French, for only anchoring under Hispaniola, in a gale of wind.' Although Almy calculated his loss at \$2,000, indeed a fortune for that time, the lottery was allowed to bring in \$2,000, the 576 prizes were destined to pay out \$1,600. Almy was eventually supposed to benefit from all this in the amount of \$400."

CONTRIBUTIONS

Since the last Newsletter, I have received contributions from the following cousins to help defray the printing and mailing costs.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Mildred Almy Cowley	1232-1218-421	Wisconsin
C. Joseph Gannon	1232-1272-521	New York
Herbert A. Sissom	1232-4139-416	Mississippi
Joan Cheney	1232-4151-3111	Massachusetts
Elizabeth Almy Nerad	1233-3252-312	Ohio
Anne S. Almy	1233-4657-112	Maryland
Kenneth L. Wickett	1233-5143-421	Texas
Marjorie Huszagh	1233-5143-423	Illinois
Edith Almy Atwell	1233-5180-33	North Carolina
Dean J. Almy, Jr.	1235-5792-112	Maryland
Kenneth G. Fuller	1239-2127-361	California
H. Raymond Almy	1252-9532-741	New York
Cynthia Almy Josephs	1407-1C74-21	New Jersey
Kenneth R. Almy	1408-3316-23	Minnesota
Warren O. Almy	1408-3832-41	Massachusetts

I thank you all. The costs continue to go up. The 20 cents per oz. postal rate I mentioned in the last Newsletter will be effective 1 November 1981. At least this issue of the Newsletter will beat that cost increase.

Peace, Joy, and Happiness in the Holiday Season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Your cousin (1408-3311-112),

Merwin

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